

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated May 6, 2004. Claims 1-12 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 2 and 3 have been canceled, claims 1 and 4-12 have been amended, and new claims 13 and 14 have been added. Claims 1 and 4-14 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1 and 4-14 are now in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Abstract

The abstract was objected to as exceeding 150 words.

Applicants have amended the abstract, and submit that the abstract as amended is in compliance with all formality requirements.

Title

Applicants have provided a new title.

The new title is believed to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikuni (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,947) in view of Murphy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,362).

Claims 8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikuni in view of Murphy as applied to claim 1, and further in view of DeLorme et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,373).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Mikuni, Murphy and DeLorme. Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1 includes the feature of "[recording] the digital picture signal as a picture file to the recording medium and the obtained position information as a position information file such that the obtained position information is associated with the recorded picture file; and ... [creating] the table using at least one position information file, the table indicating correspondence relation between the obtained position information and the picture file." Supporting disclosure for this feature can be found in the specification at, for example, Figs. 3, 6 and 7, and their accompanying description. According to this feature, the locations at which the pictures are available can be easily searched, thereby speeding up the map drawing process with the icons corresponding to the pictures and reducing the recording calculation load when the map and icons are drawn on the display.

Neither Mikuni, Murphy nor DeLorme discloses the combination of recording the position information file and creating the table using such position information file. This table creation mechanism is obviously different from the typical PDF or linking form described in Murphy. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Mikuni, Murphy and DeLorme – taken either alone or in combination – on at least this basis.

Claims 4-12 depend on claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 4-12 are believed to be patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependency on claim 1.

Further, regarding claim 10, Applicants note the selection mechanism for selecting an icon by checking if the icon is located in the selection range set within the display screen. This mechanism is described, for example, in the flowchart shown in Fig. 11. Neither Mikuni, Murphy nor DeLorme discloses this feature. The feature is particularly advantageous when the

apparatus to which the present invention is applied is a portable type and limited in size. None of the cited references addresses such a size limitation issue. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the feature imparts further patentable distinction to claim 10.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicants' undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

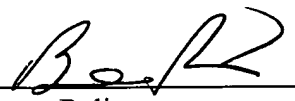
If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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